

October 10, 2001

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH

RE: Auditory and Visual Screening Rule Review – 246-760 WAC

### **Background and Summary**

The Board has been engaged in a rule review of the Auditory and Visual Screening (WAC 246-760). This rule directs schools to screen children for hearing and vision problems five times—kindergarten, first grade, second grade, fifth grade and sixth grade. These screenings generally occur in the early part of the school year and they usually occur during one day for all students.

The State Department of Health (DOH) and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) have worked with the Board to conduct the rule review. The Board has kept interested persons informed during the process.

DOH and OPSI have been conducting studies to analyze whether the number of screenings and the scope of screenings should be changed. These studies are now complete. The results indicate that neither the number of screenings nor the scope of screenings should change. A report from DOH and OSPI is attached with their recommendation.

Given these results I find inadequate justification to make any substantive changes to the rule. However, certain housekeeping changes should occur to clarify and simplify the language in the rule. Given the resources needed to make these changes, I propose that the Board delegate this rule to DOH for the sole purpose of making housekeeping changes.

### **Recommended Board Motion**

The State Board of Health will not make any substantive changes to the Auditory and Visual Screening Rule (WAC 246-760). To complete the rule review, the Board will delegate WAC 246-760 to the State Department of Health for the sole purpose of making necessary housekeeping changes.